

America's FUTURE

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109 TIMES MORE

We are approaching the time of the year when we must make our annual accounting - our income-tax returns - to Uncle Sam. Of course, he is on hand for his bite of our paychecks, profits, and other earnings all year long. But by next month we must pay up everything still due for last year.

It has been interesting to note a growing number of editorial comments on this subject of income taxes. The general tone is one of wonder - wonder at the complacency of the American people in

submitting to this endless, and always growing, raid on their earnings. One editorial writer suggested that perhaps the younger segment of our population simply does not understand how terrible the tax burden has become. If this is true, here is a good way to bring it home to them.

The *Chicago Tribune* recently printed a letter from a gentleman who handles tax problems. He came across a return he had filed for a client back in 1928. His client was married and had three

children. His income was a little over \$5500. He paid a federal income tax (I am not joking) of \$3.70! Today a married man with three children and the same income pays a federal income tax of more than \$400. In the three decades since 1928, our population has not even doubled. It has increased less than 40 percent. Federal government expenditures are 27 times more than they were then, which is bad enough. But the tax on a \$5500-a-year man is 109 times more than in 1928.

Another editorial writer suggests that people are complacent about this raid on their pocketbooks because of

the withholding tax. They do not realize how much they are being taxed because they see only their take-home pay. Their employers are forced to act as unpaid tax collectors—to deduct a worker's taxes before he is paid. However, I have heard of several public-spirited employers who have set up two adjoining pay windows. The worker is handed his full pay at the first window. Then he must immediately hand back part of it for taxes at the second window. One employer says the results are surprising. His employees are now much more interested in how the politicians spend our money.

WELFARE AND INFLATION

One of the chief reasons we can keep so little of the money we earn is that we are trying to take care of too many people who ought to be taking care of themselves. Any individual American, of course, has the privilege—in fact it is his Christian duty—to help the poor, the sick, and the aged. And Americans can be proud of a long record of looking after their own unfortunates, either personally or through private organizations or state and local efforts.

The big mistake was made when we began turning the job over to the federal politicians. They turned welfare into a political playground. It grew and grew until it encompassed practically the whole world—with the American taxpayer footing the bill.

The constant raid on our pocketbooks for foreign hand-outs is certainly outrageous enough. But take a look at the situation right here at home. *U. S. News & World Report* recently surveyed the

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national government's spending for all sorts of welfare purposes, and came up with some startling facts.

First, let me remind you that the government has a bookkeeping gimmick which keeps you from realizing the enormity of these raids on your earnings. You are shocked when you hear about an 80-billion-dollar federal budget. But it is really much bigger than that, because a lot of welfare spending is listed outside the regular budget.

Second, the politicians tell us that we cannot reduce taxes or expenditures because of the cost of defense. But *U.S. News* discovered that since Mr. Eisenhower took office, defense expenditures

have remained more or less constant. But what has happened to domestic welfare hand-outs? During the President's first year in office, they amounted to around seven billion dollars. We have had a period of booming prosperity. Practically anybody who really wanted to work, was able to get a job. But during the President's last year in office, welfare expenditures by the government - which were seven billion dollars only eight years ago - will amount to more than 20 billion dollars. And the end is not in sight, because the politicians are busy thinking up more ways to give away your money.

The final result of all this will be that the money we earn - and the money the government hands out in welfare payments - will get to be worth little or nothing. There has never been a government in history which went in heavily for welfare-statism, which did not wind up with an uncontrollable inflation - an inflation which made worthless everybody's earnings, savings, pensions, and handouts. Incidentally, a correspondent questions the story I told recently about what happened to a young man's legacy in the German inflation of the

'twenties. Well, one of its readers sent the *Wall Street Journal* two envelopes mailed in Germany. One was mailed on May 23, 1923. The stamps on

it cost 550 marks. The other envelope was mailed six months later. The stamps on it cost 220,000,000,000 marks - that's 220 billion marks.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS BATTLE

I do not know how many of you have followed the annual battle in Congress over so-called civil rights. The average American probably has no special desire to get caught up in this battle. He says: Let the senators and congressmen fight it out. However, there are two points on this subject of civil rights to which I call your attention. They have nothing to do with the merits of either side of the case, but rather with the manner in which the facts reach us. It goes without saying that it is impossible for a citizen to make up his mind about any great public issue unless all the facts are before him. But the nature of the civil rights debate, involving the touchy questions of racial segregation and integration, is such that it excites emotional rather than rational argument.

However, the first point I want to make is that there are a group of politicians who are neither emotional nor

rational on this question. They are purely practical - practical about their own interests. They are not the least bit concerned, no matter what they say in their speeches, about the civil rights of anybody. They are concerned only about votes. And anything they do or say about the civil rights issue is determined solely and singly by its vote-getting power. They care nothing about the Constitution, about the rights of the states, about the rights of individual citizens. Their chief concern is how they can corral the votes of large minority blocs in great metropolitan centers - minority blocs which can hold the balance of power between defeat and victory for these pragmatic politicians.

The other point to bear in mind is this. Unless you read the *Congressional Record* thoroughly - which very few people do - you are not getting all the facts about the civil rights issue. It is not

generally known, but the news about this whole issue is often very strongly slanted in a majority of northern newspapers and even in a good many southern newspapers. Close observers have been aware of this for some time. But it wasn't until I read a recently published book that I realized how widespread the practice is. The book to which I refer is called **THE CASE**

FOR THE SOUTH (reviewed in *AF*, 1/29/60). Its author, William D. Workman, Jr., is himself a reputable newspaperman. If you want to know the manner in which we have been denied the facts about this civil rights issue, I suggest you read his revealing chapter on "The Paper Curtain." In fact, his whole book is a rewarding reading experience.

- John T. Flynn

Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 3/6/60

Book Review

THE HELL THAT IS THE USSR

THE HIDDEN RUSSIA by N. N. Krasnov, Jr., 341 pages, Holt, New York, \$5.00.

Four months ago, in Buenos Aires, a young man (he was in his early 'forties) died of a heart attack. His name was Nikolai Krasnov, Jr. He was born in Russia. His illustrious family had fought against the communist takeover of their beloved land. They left Russia when young Nikolai was only an infant. He became a Yugoslav citizen. At the end of the Second World War, he, his father and grandfather were forcibly returned to the Soviet Union. His father and grandfather died there under unspeakable conditions. Young

Krasnov emerged 11 years later, but the strain on his courageous and valiant heart had been too much. His untimely end came in the Argentine, only a few years after he had found freedom.

But he left a testament - this book. Without pen, pencil or paper - and the penalty of death if any such were found on him - he had heeded as a sacred mission the words of his grandfather: "Try and see, hear, and remember everything." Immediately upon his release, at white heat, he committed to paper the fulfillment of his grandfather's instructions: "If you ever come out alive from this hell,

tell the West the whole truth, without coloring, without exaggerating."

He has told it with a brilliance and a simplicity which indicates that the Reds, among their innumerable cardinal sins, have denied the world another great writing talent. But perhaps too late for if we in the West read and ponder what young Krasnov willed to us, there is still hope for the deliverance of his people from the Red tyranny which, as he believed, holds them in a vise they are ready to break.

There are sensational revelations in this book. Some have been recounted before, but never with quite the impact which a native-born Russian could give them. Others hit us as with a hammer blow for the first time, as for instance, the account of how the British betrayed the male members of the Krasnov family and 2,000 other officers into the hands of the Reds. The betrayal was part of the infamous Yalta agreement. But it will be interesting to see what explanation,

if any, the Foreign Office of Perfidious Albion will make for the trickery by which the betrayal was carried out.

There are many things in this book which will make your blood boil - and others which will tear at your heart-strings. But its overwhelming importance lies in the fact that Mr. Krasnov, who made no pretensions to political sagacity, has revealed in his terrible and truthful story the inexcusable, and possibly fateful, blunder which Western leaders make in dealing with the oppressors of the Russian people - and in failing to distinguish between the tyrants and the oppressed.

It would seem that only once or twice in each decade is it given to us to receive a great human document which is also a great political document. Such a one, in the early 'fifties, was Whittaker Chambers' *Witness*. Now, in the first year of the 'sixties, another is *THE HIDDEN RUSSIA*. If enough of us read it - and heed it - young Krasnov's soul may rest in peace.

- Rosalie Gordon

THE INFECTION AMONG US

"Another crisis which haunts us... is within your particular concern. That is the spread of the Karl Marx virus. More

leaders of the Christian faiths need to realize the ultimate end of this infection among us. The real meaning and purpose of socialism is the governmental operation of all commerce and industry, and the reduction of life to pure materialism. This infection creeps through our nation by deluded and misled men and by disguised organizations, fronts and cults. These agents of infection are like hermit crabs which crawl into such terms as 'liberal,' 'progressive,' 'public electric power,' 'managed economy,' 'the welfare state,' and others.

"Yet we have before our eyes - both in the preaching of Karl Marx and in the exhibits of government in one-third of the world - the fact that commerce and industry cannot be taken over from the people by the government without dictatorship and the destruction of all independent thought, including religions...

"The clergy can perform a great spiritual service to the American people if they would tear away the disguises and expose the meaning, the ultimate consequences and the destinations of this infection." - *Herbert Hoover in an address to the National Council of Presbyterian Men*

MADE IN WASHINGTON

"The Farm Problem should bear the slogan 'Made in Washington'....The demagogues have muddled and messed up the farm program until it now constitutes a program of planned poverty and socialistic stupidity... *- FARM & RANCH*

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